

OUTWARD SIGN



06.04.08

The importance of outward signs.

1. They are employed by God.

I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my permanent promise to you and to all the earth. When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will be seen in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with everything that lives. Never again will there be a flood that will destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."

Genesis 9:13-16

2. They are an expression of our relationship with God.

This annual festival will be a visible reminder to you, like a mark branded on your hands or your forehead. Let it remind you always to keep the LORD's instructions in your minds and on your lips. After all, it was the LORD who rescued you from Egypt with great power.

Exodus 13:9

3. They are an exclamation to others.

For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

1 Corinthians 11:26

An outward sign of an inward grace?

1. Salvation is the result of faith (inward).

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 4:8-9

2. Baptism is the result of obedience. (outward).

Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Acts 2:38

What is Baptism?

1. Complete immersion.
2. A declaration of one's commitment to Christ.
3. A symbol of death and new life.

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:4

Why get Baptized?

1. Jesus was baptized.

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John didn't want to baptize him. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

Matthew 3:13-14

2. Jesus commands it.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

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